AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a communications system, comprising:

monitoring a parameter associated with the communications system; and

requesting at least one component of at least one base station in the communications system to enter a sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

2. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein monitoring the parameter associated with the communications system further comprises monitoring time of day and wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to the time of day being later than a first preselected setpoint.

3. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, further comprising requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

4. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 3, wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to the time of day being later than a second preselected setpoint.

5. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 3, wherein monitoring the parameter associated with the communications system further comprises monitoring load associated with at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system and wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to the monitored load being greater than a preselected setpoint.

6. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein monitoring the parameter associated with the communications system further comprises monitoring load associated with at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system and wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further

comprises requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to the monitored load being less than a preselected setpoint.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein monitoring the parameter associated with the communications system further comprises monitoring load and time of day associated with at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system and wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to the monitored load being less than a preselected setpoint and the time of day being later than a preselected setpoint.

8. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting that at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter a low-power consumption mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

9. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one channel of a plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode.

10. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein requesting at least one channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting a first channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting a first preselected aspect of the monitored parameter and requesting a second channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting a second preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

11. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein requesting the first channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the first preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting the first channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the monitored parameter falling below a first preselected parameter and wherein requesting the second channel of the plurality of channels associated with the

communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the second preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting the second channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the monitored parameter falling below a second preselected parameter.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises disabling at least one channel of a plurality of channels associated with the communications system.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, for controlling a communications system, comprising:

means for monitoring a parameter associated with the communications system; and

means for requesting at least one component of said at least one base station in the communications system to enter a sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

15. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

a first channel implemented in a base station;

a second channel implemented in the base station; and

a controller adapted to monitor a parameter associated with at least one of the first and second channels, and to place at least one of the first and second channels in a sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a communications system, comprising:

monitoring a parameter associated with the communications system; and

requesting at least one channel of a plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system to enter a sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

17. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 16, wherein monitoring the parameter associated with the communications system further comprises monitoring time of day and wherein requesting at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system to enter the sleep mode in response to the time of day being later than a first preselected setpoint.

18. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising requesting at least one at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.

19. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein requesting at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to the time of day being later than a second preselected setpoint.

20. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein monitoring the parameter associated with the communications system further comprises monitoring load associated with at least one channel of the plurality of channels associated with the communications system and wherein requesting at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to detecting the preselected aspect of the monitored parameter further comprises requesting at least one channel of the plurality of channels ~~associated with~~ implemented in a base station in the communications system leave the sleep mode in response to the monitored load being greater than a preselected setpoint.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

one or more components of at least one base station for supporting communication over at least a first and a second channel in a communications system; and

a processor adapted to monitor a parameter associated with at least one of the first and second channels, and to place at least one of the components of said at least one base station in a sleep mode in response to detecting a preselected aspect of the monitored parameter.